

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1157

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Red Stone Houses

other

2. Location

street and number 512-514 Virginia Avenue not for publication

city, town Towson vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John C. and Janet B. Rohde

street and number 1118 Chatterleigh Circle telephone 410-825-3885

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21286-1757

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 70A-306

city, town Towson liber 12386 folio 583

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other MHT MIHP form BA-1157

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	Resource Count	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0	0	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1	0	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government			
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care			
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry			
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape			
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture			
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion			
		<input type="checkbox"/> social			
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation			
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress			
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown			
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use			
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:			
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory		
					1

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Red Stone Houses are located at 512-514 Virginia Avenue in Towson, in central Baltimore County, Maryland. The building is a duplex that faces west toward the road, and is a two-and-a-half story, four-bay by three-bay rubble stone structure with quoins and partially dressed and coursed stone on the west elevation. The stone appears to be local schist. The gable front is to the street, and the gable roof has asphalt shingles and an east-west ridge. On the west elevation, the foundation has a three-light sash in the north bay, a boarded-up opening in the south bay, and a two-bay porch in the center that has a new wood deck. The first story has two center doors with three-light transoms, bullnose frames, and wood sills. There is one six-over-six sash to each side. The sash in 514 Virginia Avenue, which is the north half of the building, are old, with wood sills, bullnose frames, and wood lintels that have sawn brackets and cornices with jig-sawn scrolls on the top that have a Greek anthemion in the center of them. The window sash in 512 Virginia Avenue are new, with wrapped sills and frames. The first story sash only have a lintel and the second story sash are missing their scrolls. The stone has a tan mortar with a red mortar over it, and there are traces of penciling on the mortar that is sheltered by the porch. The porch has a wood soffit, wrought iron and bent wire posts and railings, cast iron scrolls, and a cornice with a frieze that has a small cavetto below an ogee. The porch has a hip roof with standing seam metal. The second story has four six-over-six sash. In the gable end, the north bay has a pair of three-light casements that are semicircular-arched, with a hood mould and brackets that match the window cornices. The south bay has the same, but with a new sash. The cornice on the roof has returns and is wrapped. The ridge has part of a paneled wood finial at the eave.

On the south elevation, the first story has three six-over-six sash that have no cornices, and there is a door between the center and east bays that appears to be added. It has a wood sill, a narrow wood lintel, a bullnose frame, and a new metal door in the opening. There is a two-bay porch over the center window and door, with a new wood deck, Greek Doric columns, a beaded-edge-and-center board soffit, an ogee cornice, and a hip roof with asphalt shingles. The second story has three new six-over-six sash. There is an interior brick chimney between the west and center bays that appears to be constructed with 20th-century brick. On the east elevation, the bottom of the wall to the south is bowed out. There are two doors in the center of the first story that have wood sills and lintels. The south door has a bullnose frame and the north door a beaded-interior-edge frame. There is one six-over-six sash to each side. The two north bays have a one-story porch with wood tongue-and-groove deck, three turned posts, and a shed roof with asphalt shingles and beaded-edge-and-center board soffit. There is a pattern of holes in and between the stones on the south two bays that suggest that a porch or addition was located here, as well, and there are horizontal traces of tar indicating a roof line, and a caulk line on the south side where a post was. The second story end bays have typical six-over-six sash with no cornices. The two center bays have short windows, and the south-center window is new and has a wrapped frame and sill. The north-center bay has a two-light casement with a wood sill and a narrow wood lintel. The gable end has two six-over-six sash. The foundation on the north elevation has a three-light sash in the center and a cellar bulkhead in the west bay. The first story has a six-over-one sash in the east bay and six-over-six sash in both the center and west bays. The second story has three six-over-six sash. There is an interior brick chimney between the center and west bays that is constructed with old brick.

The interior of 512 Virginia Avenue has two-and-a-half-inch pine flooring on the first story that runs east-west. The door on the west elevation has splayed jambs, six lights over two panels that are flat and sunk, and hinges with ball finials. There is no architrave. There is new baseboard and chair rail, the walls have been dry-walled, and there is new window trim. On the east elevation is a double door with 15 lights in each door and hinges with ball finials. The architrave has a beaded interior edge and is mitered at the corners. The center room also has drywall that covers the window trim, new baseboard, chair rail, and ductwork added. There is a straight run of stairs on the east that ascends to the north. It has a closed stringer, a paneled pine newel post, square balusters, and a moulded handrail. The doorway to the south of the stairway has straight jambs, while the windows have splayed jambs. There is a doorway on the east that leads to the east room, and the architrave matches the double doors. The east room has been divided into two rooms and has the same modern alterations as the other rooms on the first story. The door on the east has splayed jambs, but the trim has been covered. It has six lights over three lying panels and new butt hinges. The door to the cellar stairs was originally on the west side of the stairway but was moved to the east side. There is a four-panel door set inside the west opening to create a built-in closet on the west side. The stairs are sash-sawn and constructed with cut nails, but are

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partially rebuilt with wire nails.

The cellar exists under the south half of the center room and the west rooms only, with the rest being crawlspace. There is a hewn beam under the west wall of the stairs, and it runs north-south. The joists run east-west, are sawn, and have a half-lapped tenon into the stair trimmer, but no pin. The trimmer is eight inches square and the joists are two-and-three-quarters to three-inches by seven-inches, spaced 18 to 19 inches on centers. There was also a beam running north-south between the west and center rooms to support joists, but this has been replaced. The joists in the west cellar match those in the center. The joists are sash-sawn. There is a new CMU wall on the north to divide this cellar from that of 514. There is a cellar entrance on the south.

The second story has an enclosed straight run of stairs on the north partition wall that ascends to the west, with a passage running to the east from this stairway and turning to the south, east of the stairway from the first story. The west chamber walls have drywall, the west windows have splayed jambs, and there is a new doorway between the west and center chambers. The center chamber has a door on the north, but the door is missing. The architrave has a beaded interior edge and butt hinges with two knuckles. There is a three-light transom. The windows have splayed jambs. On the east elevation is a doorway that leads to a closet but originally led to stairs to the attic. The door has four panels with sunken fields and mineral knobs, but no lock. It has beaded interior edge architrave and stamped plate butt hinges with five knuckles and loose joints. The door has been flipped. The southeast chamber has drywall that covers the trim, splayed window jambs, and a new doorway. The northeast chamber is a bathroom with a five-lying panel door, a one-light transom that has been painted over, new fixtures, and a drop ceiling. The attic is finished with drywall but has exposed sash-sawn collar beams that are 1-inch by 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. There are lath nails and plaster burns on the bottoms of the collars.

In 514 Virginia Avenue the door to the cellar is on the east side but appears it was originally on the west side and there is a built-in now on the west side. It is a four-panel door with sunken fields, a mortise lock with a mineral knob and a porcelain knob, butt hinges with five knuckles and pins, and new trim. The stairs to the second story are constructed with cut nails and have wire nails added. The cellar is under the north half of the center room and the west room. There are hewn beams on the west side of the stairway and between the center and west rooms. They are 8 inches square and run north/south. The joists are sash-sawn, run east/west, and are 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3-inches wide by 7 inches deep. They have a half-lapped tenon into the stair trimmer, but rest on top of the west beam. The flooring above is circular sawn. There is a cellar entrance on the north. There are three-light sash that are hinged at the top on the west end on the north elevation in the center cellar. The joists are set on a 1-inch thick board set into the wall on the west elevation. There is no evidence of central heating down here originally. The stair landing on the first story has short patched-in joists supported by a ledger board, with both cut and wire nails, and the floor boards above are narrower replacements. It is not clear if this is a repair or if it closes over an earlier opening for a large furnace grate. There are pieces of a building in the cellar, including turned porch posts, two turned newel posts with wire nails, and a small board door with tapered battens that are dove-tailed into the boards and taper in opposite directions. It is not clear whether these fragments come from this house or another building.

On the first story the west room has 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch pine flooring that runs north-south. There is plain baseboard and new chair rail. The west window has ovolo muntins with 10-inch by 14-inch lights, and the sash are mortised and tenoned and pinned at the corners and at the top and bottom of the muntins. Both the top and bottom sash have spring latches, and these details are consistent with the other sash in the building. The door on the west elevation has one light over one panel, has a splayed jamb, and is hung on butt hinges with pins. The mortise lock is circa 1920s, and the architrave has a beaded interior edge and is mitered at the corners. There are new French doors between the west and center rooms, and the architrave matches that of the west door. The floorboards at this door opening are replacements that are wider than the rest of the flooring, suggesting that the doorway has been altered. The center room has the same flooring, baseboard, and architrave as the west room. There is a door on the east that has four panels, sunken fields, butt hinges with two knuckles, and a new mortise lock with glass knobs that replaces a rim lock. This door is set to

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the south, and is now a closet. To the north, on the east elevation, is a matching door with butt hinges that have five knuckles and pins. It also has a mortise lock with glass knobs that replaces a rim lock. There is an enclosed straight run of stairs between the center and east rooms, and it ascends to the south. The east room baseboard has an ogee and bevel added to the top of what was originally plain baseboard. There is a typical four-panel door with a mortise lock and glass knob on the west elevation, leading to the stairs. It has butt hinges with five knuckles and pins. There is new trim on the windows and doors. The windows have splayed jambs and original sash, though the bottom sash have been converted to one light. The kitchen cabinets and counters date to circa the 1920s. The exterior door on the east has four lights over two panels but appears to have been converted from a four-panel door. The butt hinges have five knuckles with pins, and there is a new lock. The north jamb is splayed, but the south jamb is straight where it butts against the cabinets.

The second story has a steep, straight run of stairs along the party wall to the east and it ascends to the east. The stairway appears to be original and has winders at the bottom in order for the stairs to clear the passage. The passage runs east-west along the party wall and turns to the north at the stairs. The second story is completely carpeted and has plain baseboard. The west chamber has a four-panel door with sunken fields and butt hinges with two knuckles. There is beaded-interior-edge trim, a rim lock with mineral knobs, and a three-light transom. The six-over-six sash is mortised and tenoned and pegged, has 10-inch by 12-inch lights, and has spring latches. The architrave matches the first story. The center chamber also has a typical four-panel door that matches the west chamber, and the six-over-six sash also matches the west chamber. The east elevation of the center chamber has a closet set to the north with a typical four-panel door. The cast iron butts have five knuckles and fast joints. There is no evidence that there was ever a stairway accessed from inside this closet. The south-center room is a bathroom with a four-panel door on butt hinges with five knuckles and pins. It has a typical rim lock with mineral knobs, typical architrave, and a one-light transom that pivots on center pins on the sides. There is a claw-foot tub, a cast iron sink marked "Standard," and a water closet labeled "Central Metal and Supply Co., Avon, Baltimore." The tank is marked "Standard, April 26, 1934." The water closet flushes to the front. The radiators are marked "AERO." The stairs are enclosed with beaded-edge-and-center boards. The baseboard in the passage is patched on the side of the stairs from the first story, and there could have been a doorway here to the east chamber rather than the two doors that are now here. The northeast chamber has a typical four-panel door on butt hinges with two knuckles, and a three-light transom. There are two six-light sash that have 8-inch by 10-inch lights and ovolo muntins that are mortised and tenoned and pinned. The sash have spring latches and there is typical architrave in the room and plain baseboard.

The attic is divided into two finished rooms, with a typical four-panel door between them that has cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles, fast joints, and that are labeled "N. ENG. BUTT. CO." There is a rim lock with mineral knobs and typical architrave. There is five to seven-inch wide pine flooring that runs east-west. The east elevation sash has 8- by 10-inch lights and is mortised and tenoned and pinned, with spring latches and splayed jambs. The west casement window also has cast iron butts with five knuckles and fast joints, and they are heavily painted. The attic is finished with sawn lath and plaster. The rafters are sash-sawn, are 3 inches by 5 ¼ inches, and are spaced 26 ½ to 29 inches on centers. There is a false plate approximately the same size as the rafters fastened to the ends of the joists. There is no flooring near the false plate, suggesting that the attic was always finished. The rafters have a bird's mouth cut at the foot and do not align with the joists. They support random-width board shingle lath.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder n/a

Construction dates 1859

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Red Stone Houses in Towson are situated on part of the estate of "Epsom" owned by Henry B. Chew (1800-1866, son of Benjamin Chew of "Cliveden," in Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.) and his wife, Harriet Ridgely Chew (1802-1835, daughter of Charles Ridgely of "Hampton."). With the establishment of Towson as the county seat for Baltimore County, a map was created to determine the location of the court house. This map, dated 1853, does not show either the Red Stone Houses, or Virginia Avenue. However, the rising importance of Towson helps to explain the creation of both. There was an increasing need for housing, and since Henry Chew already owned this land, he shortly responded to the economic opportunity provided him by constructing these and several other houses. In February 1860 Chew advertised some of these buildings for rent, including "the 2 handsome red stone dwellings on Virginia Avenue- ready for immediate occupation." The ad includes the Blue Stone House (BA-206) next door, which was clearly under construction and not yet ready for occupants, and suggests that the Red Stone Houses were recently completed, probably having been built in 1859. Though described in the plural, it was one building constructed to be a duplex. (1)

Chew constructed several rental properties along Virginia Avenue, and gave the name Chewville to the area. Henry Chew died in 1866 and the following year his children divided his property among themselves. Benjamin Chew received the Red Stone Houses. Brother Charles Chew was ensconced at Epsom, so Benjamin had returned to "Cliveden" with his other brother, Samuel. Benjamin died in 1885, and in his will he left "my two red stone houses . . . to my niece Harriet R. Chew. Harriet retained them as rental properties until 1919. The north half of the building, 514 Virginia Avenue, was purchased by Wilson and Gertrude Watson, and remained in the family until 2000, when the current owner purchased it for offices. The Watsons continued to live in the house and made few changes to the building. The finishes were simple, and the plan had three rooms in a line from front to back, with the stairway running across the building between the center and rear rooms. The rear room was the kitchen, with likely a dining room off of it and a parlor to the front. There were three bedrooms upstairs and probably a bathroom, though this is not certain. They apparently never had fireplaces and probably had central heating from the beginning. While not as elegant as their neighbor, the Blue Stone House, these houses were larger than worker housing of the period, and were probably intended for middle class renters. (2)

The south half of the building, 512 Virginia Avenue, had been given a one-story addition on the rear before 1891. It was purchased in 1919 by Benjamin C. and Clara Green. Benjamin was probably a Chew relative, as Samuel Chew's granddaughter, Mary Chew Grason, married Towson physician J. Royston Green. Several changes were made to the house at this time, including opening up the stairway to the center room, and installing double French doors between the center and front rooms. The rear addition was removed and a new door and porch added to the side of the house, at the foot of the stairway. These last two changes were made between 1922 and 1929, judging from the Sanborn maps, and perhaps all of the changes were made in one large remodeling by the Greens. Clara Green deeded a share of the property to Katherine G. and William Jones, probably

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her daughter and son-in-law, in 1967, and they sold it in 1985. It was converted to offices at that time, and most of the historic features in the building were removed or covered with drywall and drop ceilings. (3)

(1) Robert L. Chew, *Genealogy of the Chew Family*. (Woodbury, N.J.: Gloucester County Historical Society, 1982), p. 278. *Baltimore County Advocate*, 18 February 1860, p. 2, col. 7. Susan M. Cook and Wayne L. Nield, II, "Blue Stone House," BA-206, *Maryland Inventory of Historic Places*, Maryland Historical Trust, 1978.

(2) Baltimore County Land Records, JHL 54-267. Benjamin Chew Estate, Will, Baltimore County Register of Wills, TP 7-428. Baltimore County Land Records, WPC 518-76; 14842-244.

(3) Baltimore County Land Records, WPC 517-222; OTG 4830-210; EHK, Jr. 6450-295. Edwin K. Gontrum, ed. *Sidelights on the History of Baltimore County*. (Towson, 1966), p. 11. Sanborn-Perris Map Co. "Towsontown, Maryland." (Chicago, 1922), sheet 10; (1929), sheet 6.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 4,008 sq ft

Acreage of historical setting 4,008 sq ft

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the original lot lines, which contain the only historic structure.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short

organization _____

date 5/31/05

street and number 610 Regester Avenue

telephone 410-377-4953

city or town Baltimore

state MD zip code 21212

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

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Historic Properties Form

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Continuation Sheet

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See footnotes

BA-1157

512-~~512~~ Virginia Ave.

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
			12386- 583				
			12220- 327				
A. Norman Feelemyer, Jr. John H. B. Latrobe Eugene Towner Chew House Partnership	John J. & Joan K. McLaughlin	26 Aug 1986	7253- 87	Deed - fee 5.	\$110,500	31x146 ft	Subject to restrictions in Harriet Chew to Benj. Green 17 Oct 1919 WPC 517-222
A. Norman Feelemyer director, Chew House, Inc	A. Norman John H. B. Latrobe Eugene Towner Chew House Partnership	27 Jun. 1985	EHK Jr. 6954- 745	Deed- fees.	#0	"	merge legal & equitable interest
Katherine G. Jones	Chew House, Inc	3. Nov. 1982	EHK, Jr. 6450- 295	Deed- fees.	\$58,500	"	minus 29' sored fr. Jones to Townson Assocs. 1975 5539-972 clear d 1973 w.m.d. 1982
James A. Pine & Bob Charlotte W. Balto Co.	Clara E. Green widow Katherine G. & William L. Jones (H/W) Balto	5 Dec 1967	OTG 4830- 210	Deed- fees.	\$5.00	"	
Clara E. Green Katherine G. Jones	James A. & Charlotte W. Pine (H/W)	5 Dec 1967	OTG 4830- 208	Deed- fees	\$5.00	"	K. G. S. married - now Jones
Evelyn E. Grolock /?	Clara E. Green, widow Katherine G. Smith /?	3 May 1954	GLB 2474- 273	Deed- fees.	\$5.00	?	
Clara E. Green widow /?	Evelyn E. Grolock /?	3 May 1954	GLB 2474- 273	Deed- fees.	\$15.00	"	
Harriet R. Chew unmarried Balto Co.	Benjamin & Clara E. Green (H/W) Balto Co.	17 Oct. 1919	WPC 517- 222	Deed- fees.	\$5.00	"	restrictions ① no alcohol made or sold ② no blacks with stop or nuisance ③ can't sell to negro

BA 1157
514 Virginia Ave.

CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
Wilson B Watson William J. Watson	John C. & Janet B Rohde (H/W)	30 Nov. 2000	14842- 248	Deed - fees.	\$140,000	31x146'	
William J. Watson pers. rep. of Wm. J. Watson, Jr.	William J. Watson Estate of George B Watson	24 Feb 1988	7806- 466	Deed- fees.	\$0.	"	1/2 int
Wilson B. Watson, Pers. rep. of Gladys Witte Watson Barto Co	Wilson B Watson	12 Oct. 1994	5m 10825- 392	Deed- fees.	\$0.	"	
Gladys Witte Watson pers. rep. of George B. Watson	Gladys Witte Watson	24 Feb 1988	7806- 469	Deed- fees.	\$0.	"	1/2 int. d. 23 Oct 1962 GEW d. 25 July 1965 W.W. d. 14 July 1973 GBW. d. 5 Feb. 1984
George B Watson Barto Co	Gladys Witte Watson (wif of Geo B) 1/2 int		<u>Wills</u> estate # 54874	Bequest			
Wilson W. Watson Jr. Barto Co	William J. Watson George B Watson (bro of Wilson) 1/6 int. ea		<u>Wills</u> estate # 34272	Bequest			
Gertrude Eisinger Watson	3 sons: William J. Watson Wilson W. Watson, Jr. George B. Watson		<u>Wills</u> estate # 23446	Bequest			
Harriet R Chew Barto Co.	Wilson W. & Gertrude Eisinger Watson (H/W) Barto Co.	29 Oct. 1919	WPC 578- 76	Deed- fees.	\$5.00	"	"Beign ^{are the} northern half of two red stone houses..." right to use a cesspool in commonly southern half of ho- on boundary line bet. 2 properties
Benjamin Chew	Harriet R Chew		<u>Wills</u> T.P. 7- 428	Bequest			
Charles R Chew, et al	Benjamin Chew						

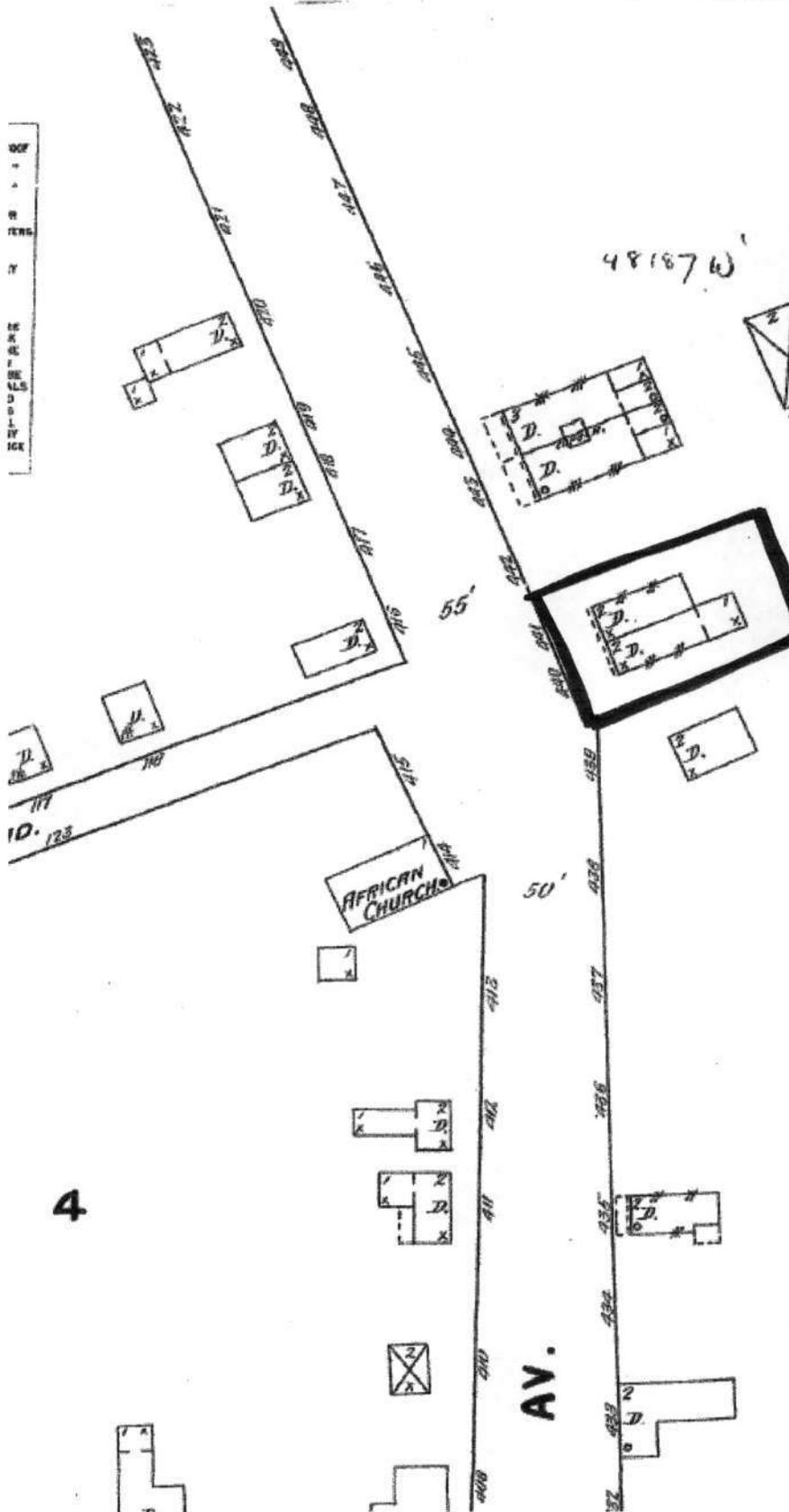
(4886)
25 sheets



48187 W

NOTE -
 POSSIBLE 55 GALL. TANK,
 CHEMICAL ENG. 2 MEN FUND.
 C. & L. CO. (DEPENDENT WEATHER)
 50' 2' HIGH, 2' WINDS, ELECTRIC
 FIRE ALARM BONES IN TOWN.

100 FT
 50 FT
 25 FT
 12 1/2 FT
 6 1/4 FT
 3 1/4 FT
 1 3/4 FT
 7/8 FT
 3/4 FT
 1/2 FT
 1/4 FT

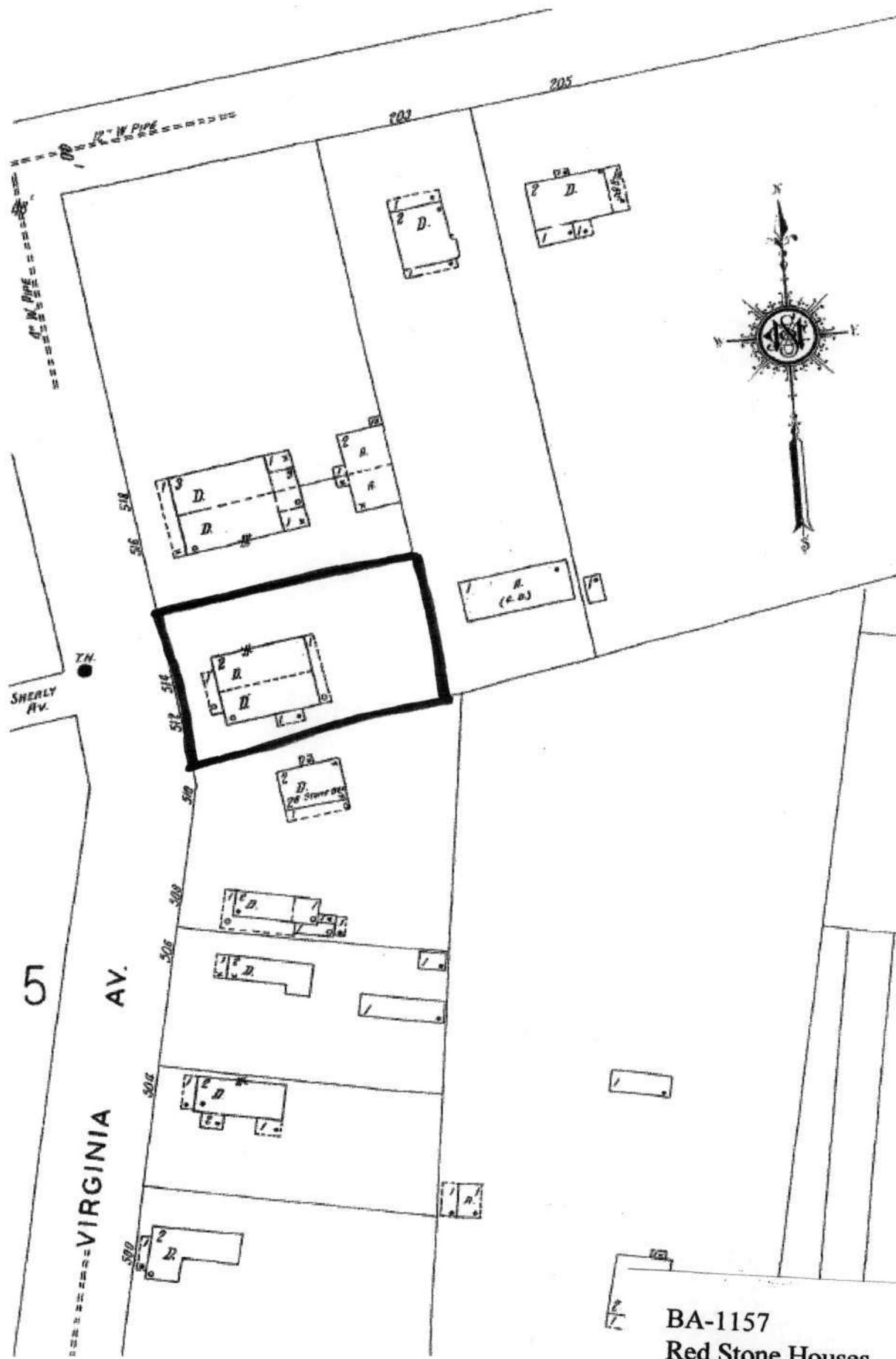


13

4

72 A
 60' 3.57'
 PR. DWG.

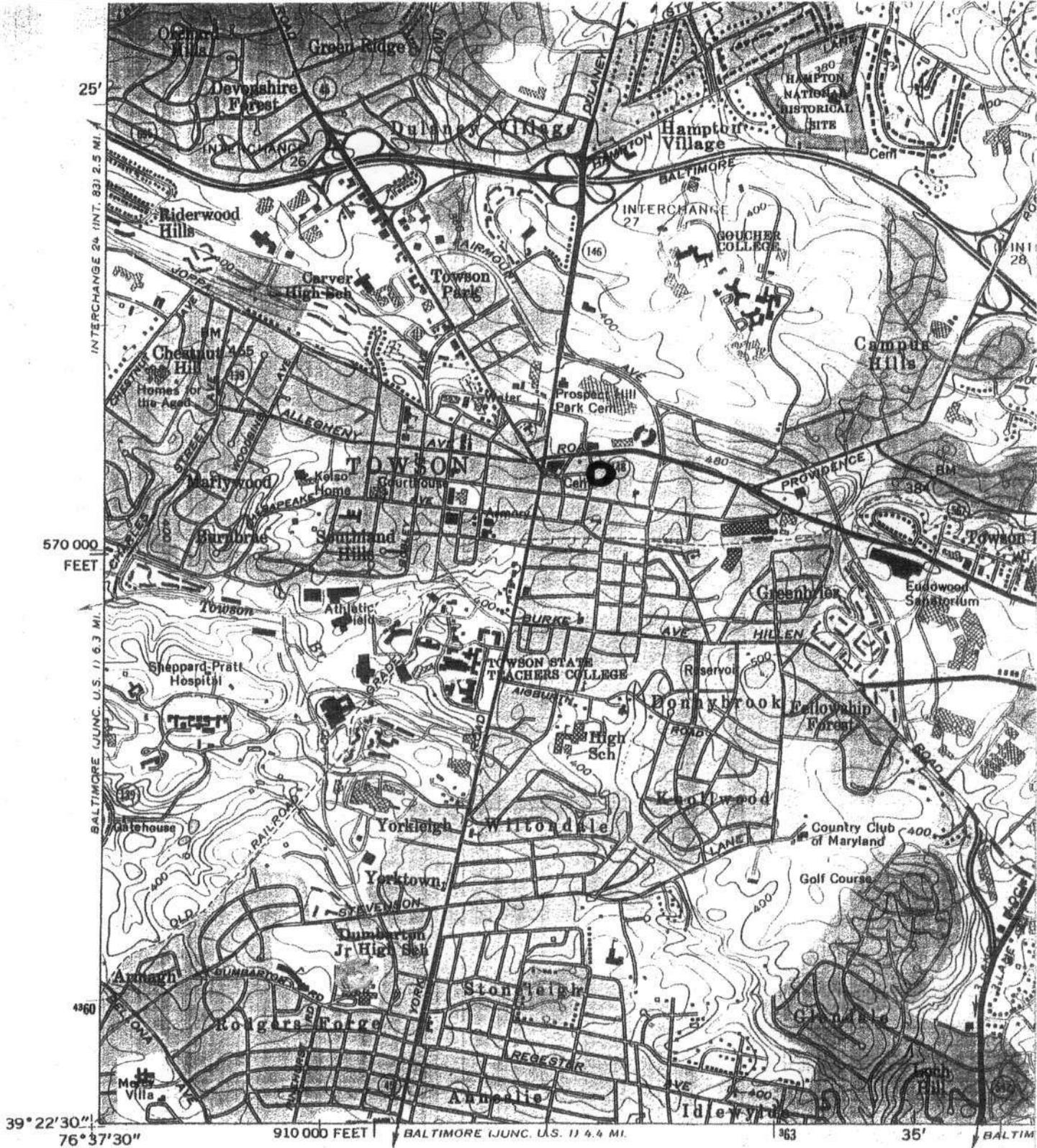
BA-1157
 Red Stone Houses
 512-514 Virginia Avenue
 Sanborn Map, 1891



<http://sanborn.umi.com/sanborn/image/fetchimage?state=md&reelid=reel12>

June 1929, sheet 6

BA-1157
Red Stone Houses
512-514 Virginia Avenue
Sanborn Map, 1929



18AL-TIMORE WEST I
5882 I SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
 Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
 taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
 landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey
 aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information



BA-1157
Red Stone Houses
512-514 Virginia Avenue
Towson Quad



BA-1157

Red Stone Houses

512-514 Virginia Ave, Towson

Balto. Co, MD

Ken Short

March 2005

MD SHPO

N. & W. elevs

4/3



BA-1157

Red Stone Houses

512-514 Virginia Ave., Towson

Balto. Co., MD

Ken Short

March 2005

MD SHPO

W. elev. - window cornice

213



BA-1157

Red Stone Houses

512-514 Virginia Ave, Towson
Balto. Co, MD

Ken Short

March 2005

MOSHPO

S & E eleus

3/3

CHEW HOUSES

Both of these stone buildings should be seen as part of a chain of land ownership and development by two important Baltimore County families. It began with the Ridgelys at Hampton in the 18th century, whose land was divided in 1832, with a large portion going to their relatives, the Chews. The Chew estate was called "Epsom" and is the present site of the Goucher College campus. The land on which these houses stand was part of the Chew holdings. They were built by the Chews and constituted part of what was called "Chewville" in one 1861 advertisement. The buildings associated with this evolution document the full gamut of major architectural styles in America. The Georgian is well represented by Hampton, early sketches show that Epsom had a large Greek Revival portico, and in these two buildings one finds good examples of the Gothic Revival and Italianate.

Although they differ in color, both of these houses are built of local stone. For obvious reasons # 512-14 is known as the "red stone house" and for less obvious reasons its neighbor at 518 the "blue stone". Early deeds confirm the use of these terms.

The red stone house is a duplex which is basically a deeply corniced gable-end structure typical of the Greek Revival. Applied to it are somewhat oversized scroll work decorations typical of Gothic Revival patternbooks.

The blue stone is a large three-story residence resting on a high basement, and even without its recently removed brackets, it remains one of Towson's better Italianate structures. Although it was designed to be a residence, the large and well equipped building "is admirably adapted for a female seminary or boarding house," as was pointed out in an 1861 real estate advertisement.

B. C. American, March 1, 1861, p. 1.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Chew House or "Red stone" House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
512/14 Virginia Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Towson
STATE
Maryland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
9th
COUNTY
Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (Duplex with Double Ownership - see continuation sheet)

NAME
Wilson W. Watson Telephone #: (301) 823-8942
STREET & NUMBER
514 Virginia Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Towson STATE, zip code
Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Baltimore County Courthouse (New annex)
STREET & NUMBER
Washington Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Towson STATE
Maryland
Liber #: 518 & Liber# 4830
Folio #: 76 & Folio# 210

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None
DATE
_FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Jan., 1978</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This double residence faces west and is located on the east side of Virginia Avenue where the street intersects with Shealey Avenue. It was built and owned by the Chews, a family prominent in both Towson and Philadelphia, until 1919 when the ownership was divided. The house is a two story building with a finished attic. It is made of local stone and follows the coursed rubble form of construction with corners that appear to be quoined. The house is 4 bays wide and although the side fenestration is quite irregular, it would appear to be 4 long bays deep following a longitudinal plan. It has a gable roof with deep cornices that is common to the Greek Revival.

The street facade has symmetrically placed windows with those on the first two floors being 6/6 sash and the attic story windows being rounded casements. These sash windows have gingerbread scrollwork cornices whereas the attic windows have hoodmoulds tacked on. The sash windows were once louvred as the remains of the shutterlocks would indicate. There is a wooden 2 bay entrance porch supported by late 19th century ironwork. The two doors are located slightly off center and contain 8 window panes. There is also a fleche, or small wooden spire-like object, projecting from the roof's ridge.

The north elevation contains irregular fenestration and has an interior chimney centered between the 2 windows. There is a bulkhead cellar entrance with the same stone base as the house. The south elevation has the same irregular fenestration, chimney placement, and cellar entrance and includes a 1 bay porch entrance with wooden doric columns. The ceiling and floor boards on the porch are tongue and groove.

The east elevation of the house has a regular placement of the windows but some disparity in sizes. There is also a porch addition, half of which is enclosed and half open with turned columns. This latter section also has a tongue and groove ceiling. Another chimney is placed in the rear of the house on the side of the open porch.

At the time of this writing, the interior was inaccessible and therefore an interior description was not possible.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chew or "Red stone" house is significant to Towson for several reasons. As to when it was built, the only known documentation would indicate that construction took place sometime between 1853 and 1877. This is because the neither the house nor Virginia Avenue appear on the Plat of Towson dated December 1853 to be used for the donation of the land for a courthouse. It does, however, turn up on the Hopkins map of 1877. It should be noted that architectural analysis suggests that 512/14 is older than 518 Virginia Avenue (1853-61) although evidence is not presently available.

As stated in the description, this house exhibits elements of both the Greek and Gothic Revivals. Both of these styles were popular in Towson during the 19th century. It is believed that perhaps the house was originally a stone Greek Revival house and that later, as styles and tastes changed, the Gothic features were added. Regardless of style, the Chew house is also one of the few extant houses in Towson constructed of local stone; something which was relatively common as can be surmised from old photographs and the 1898 color-coded atlas. (Bromley)

In addition, the house can be regarded as a part of the overall chain of land ownership and development of the area which started with the Ridgely family of Hampton (relatives of the Chews) in the 18th century. The division of the Ridgely estate in 1832 in which part of this land came into Chew ownership lead to eventual southward growth and development. Most importantly the buildings involved become visual documents of this development, especially as it relates to America's architectural styles and taste. For example, there is Hampton, built in the late Georgian style; Epsom, with its Federal or Greek Revival portico addition; the Blue stone house or 518 Virginia Avenue in the Italianate style; the Red stone house or 512/14 Virginia Avenue which exhibits features of the Greek and Gothic revivals; and lastly the frame dwellings of "Chewville". The name "Chewville" was documented by an 1861 newspaper as and undoubtedly refers to the Chew family's land ownership especially in the vicinity of what is now Virginia Avenue and Joppa Road as evidenced by the 1853, 1877, and 1898 maps. These holdings also included the Epsom estate which has since become Goucher College.

Located in an area which has since seen the influx of modern high rises and commercialism, the Chew house stands as an important link with Towson's heritage and lifestyles of the mid-late nineteenth century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bromley. Atlas of 1898.

Gontrum, Edwin K., ed. Sidelights on the History of Baltimore County,
Towson, Md: Edwin Gontrum, 1966, pp. 11-12.

Hahn, H. George and Carl Behm III. A Pictorial History of a Maryland Town: Towson,
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE L. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

Susan M. Cook Student/Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Goucher College

DATE

January 20, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Dulaney Valley Road

TELEPHONE

(301) 825-3300

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Item Number 4 -- continued

As listed in Liber 4830 folio 210, Clara E. Green, Katherine G. Jones and her husband William L. Jones are co-owners of 512 Virginia Avenue. At the present time no address is known for them although the occupants of 512 Virginia Avenue say the Jones family resides in Virginia.

Item Number 9 -- continued

Norfolk, Virginia: The Donning Co., 1977, pp. 24-26.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of 1877.

Plat of Towson Town, December 1853

Wilson, Hilda N., ed. Then...Now: Towson Bicentennial 1768-1968, Towson, MD: Junior Press, 1968.

Wills, T.P. Liber 7 folio 428 , Baltimore County, February 13, 1884.

Item Number 10 -- continued

514 Virginia Avenue

Beginning for the same at a point on the East side of Virginia Avenue (60 feet wide) said point being at the distance of 31.5 feet North 0 degree and 15 minutes West from the beginning of the third parcel of land which by deed partition dated June 18th 1867 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber J.H.L. No. 54 folio 267 and was conveyed by Charles R. Chew et. al. to Benjamin Chew said point being also in line with the centre of the partition wall of a double stone house located on the lot now being described and the lot adjoining on the South and running thence to and through the center of said partition wall and binding on a fence now standing in all 146.9 feet to intersect the South 3 degrees East 4.3 perch lines of the above whole parcel of land, and running thence binding on said line reversely North 0 degree and 15 minutes west 42 25/100 feet to the beginning of said line thence North 89 degrees and 41 minutes west 12 feet thence continuing the same course North 89 degrees and 41 minutes West 135.3 feet to the east side of Virginia Avenue and thence binding on the East side of said Avenue South 0 degree and 15 minutes East 43 25/100 feet to the place of beginning. (Liber 518 folio 76)

Item Number 10 — continued

512 Virginia Avenue

Beginning for the same at a point on the east side of Virginia Avenue (60 feet wide) said point being at the beginning of the third parcel of land which by deed of partition dated June 18, 1867 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber J.H.L. No. 54 folio 267 was allotted by Charles R. Chew et al to Benjamin Chew and running thence binding on the east side of Virginia Avenue and on part of the first line of the said deed of partition North 0 degree 15 minutes west 31.5 feet to a point in line with the centre of the partition wall of a double stone house located on the lot now being described and the lot adjoining on the North, and running thence to and through the center of said partition wall above referred to, and binding on a fence as now located in all 146.9 feet to an iron pipe, and to intersect the south 3 degrees east 4.3 perches line of the above deed of partition, thence binding on said line South 0 degree and 15 minutes East 29 feet to an iron pipe and to the beginning of the South 84 $\frac{3}{4}$ degrees West 8.9 perches line of the aforesaid deed of partition and thence binding on the said line South 83 degrees and 21 minutes west 146.85 feet to the place of beginning. The improvements thereon being now known as No. 512 Virginia Avenue. (Liber 4830 folio 210)

TITLE SEARCH for CHEW HOUSE - RED STONE

Liber 4830, Folio 210 December 5, 1967

Grantor: James A. Pine & wife

Grantee: Clara E. Green et. al.

Beginning...eastside of Virginia Ave...said point being at the beginning of the third parcel of land which by deed of partition dated June 18, 1867 and recorded in the...Land Records...JHL 54/267...by Charles R. Chew et. al. to Benjamin Chew...West 31.5' to a point in line with the center of the partition wall of a double stone house...146.85' to place of beginning...known at # 512 Virginia Ave.

(Liber 4830, Folio 208 December 5, 1967 Clara E. Green et. al. to James A. Pine & wife.)

Liber 2474, Folio 273 May 3, 1954

Grantor: Evelyn E. Grolock

Grantee: Clara E. Green

Liber 517, Folio 222 October 17, 1919

Grantor: Harriet R. Chew

Grantee: Benjamin C. Green et. al.

Being part of land allotted by Charles R. Chew et. al. to Benjamin Chew...
Being also part of land - Will dated February 13, 1831, recorded in
the Register of Wills book 7/428 Benjamin Chew to Harriet R. Chew.
"My two red stone houses I devise and bequeath to my niece..."

Subject to leaving a 12' space for an alley. Also subject to restrictions:

- 1) That no alcohol or intoxicating liquors shall be made, brewed sold or kept for sale upon said lot.
- 2) That no blacksmith shop...shall be maintained...or any use... which shall be noxious or dangerous to health.
- 3) That neither lot or part shall be sold or permitted to be occupied by any negro or any person of negro descent not to include employees

Baltimore County Advocate February 11, 1860

AD: Sale for two Red Stone Dwellings and a Blue Stone Mansion
Virginia Ave. "ready for immediate occupation."
Apply to Henry B. Chew (Father of Benjamin Chew)

BA-1157

Continuation Sheet

Title Search

ALSO:

Liber 518, Folio 76 October 29, 1919

Grantor: Harriet R. Chew

Grantee: Wilson W. Watson et. al.

Beginning...at a distance 31.5'...to a point in line with the center of the partition wall of a double stone house located on the lot adjoining on the south...43.25' to place of beginning.

Being the northern half of one of two red stone houses

Chew Houses
Red Stone

BN-1157



COPYRIGHT-MAD DAVISON-1967
MD DEPT OF ASSESS & TAX

TOWSON
SCALE 1" = 200'

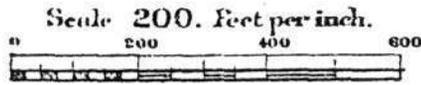
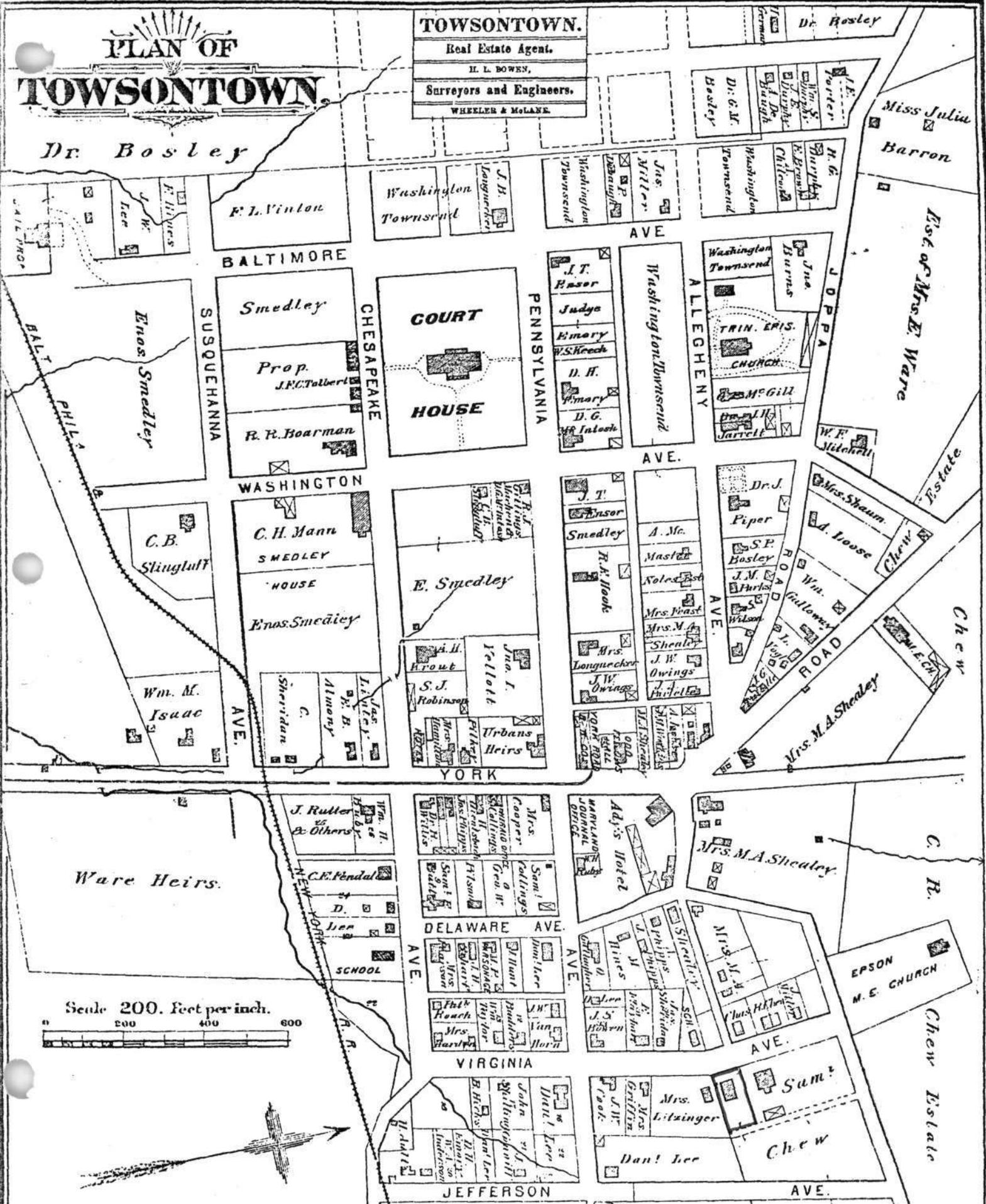
DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
TAX MAP SYSTEM
THIS MAP IS A REPRESENTATION OF THE TAX MAP SYSTEM AND IS NOT A LEGAL SURVEY. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TAXPAYER TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE MAP AND TO OBTAIN A PROFESSIONAL SURVEY FOR LEGAL PURPOSES.

MAP NO
70A

PLAN OF TOWSONTOWN.

TOWSONTOWN.
Real Estate Agent.
H. L. BOWEN,
Surveyors and Engineers.
WHEELER & MOLAN.

Dr. Bosley



Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1877 by G. M. Hopkins in the Office of the Librarian of Congress at Washington.



BA-1157

CHEW HSES.
REDSTONE
S.E. CORNER

W. NIELD
SUM-78